

South Dakota

BEE & HONEY

News Release

March 2, 2000

SOUTH DAKOTA HONEY PRODUCTION UP

SIoux FALLS, March 2, 2000 -- South Dakota's 1999 honey production totaled 23.3 million pounds, up 9 percent from last year according to the USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. This ranked South Dakota third in the nation, following California and North Dakota.

The number of colonies of bees in the state fell to 224,000, but honey production per colony, at 104 pounds, was 9 pounds higher than the yield in 1998. Over the previous five years, the state has averaged 241,000 colonies producing 88.5 pounds of honey per colony. The price received by producers decreased 6 percent in 1999 to 60 cents per pound. The value of production in 1999 increased 2 percent from 1998, to 14.0 million dollars.

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